

Please enter the following amendments and remarks:

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-116 are pending in the Application.

Claims 1-23 and 25-34 have been rejected by the Examiner.

Claim 24 has been objected to by the Examiner.

Claims 36-116 have been allowed by the Examiner.

Claims 1-23 and 25-34 have canceled herein without prejudice while reserving the right to reintroduce these claims in this or subsequent applications without prejudice.

Claim 24 has been amended herein.

Reconsideration of the present Application is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 and 25-34 have rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham (U.S. Patent No. 6,625,267) in view of Downs (U.S. Patent No. 6,574,609). Claim 24 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 35-116 have been allowed. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Applicant notes with appreciation Examiner's efforts in determining that Claim 24 if rewritten in independent form and Claims 35-116 are allowable over the prior art. Applicant has herein canceled Claim 1-23 and 25-34. Applicant has rewritten Claim 24 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant requests a Notice of Allowance for pending Claims 24 and 35-116.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present Application in light of the reasons set forth herein, and a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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